SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Fixing of Prices of Foodgrains.

Q.—9. Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN (Kolar Gold Fields).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the Government have issued a press note recently (last week) clarifying that they have not fixed the prices of foodgrains ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they intend doing so in the near future ;

(*c*) whether they are aware of the steep rise in the prices of food articles ;

(*d*) the extent of such rise ;

(*e*) whether they intend to fix the prices of foodgrains in view of the rising trend ?

A.—Sri K. F. PATIL (Minister for Forest and Transport).—

(*a*) The press note issued on 4th December 1959 was to the effect that the price control notification issued by the Government of India on 4th February 1959 fixing maximum purchase prices for varieties of rice and paddy has been withdrawn by Government of India with effect from 16th November 1959.

(*b*) It is for the Government of India to decide.

(*c*) and (*d*) There has not been any steep rise in recent days.

(*e*) Price control policy is to be determined on an All-India basis and it is for the Government of India to issue statutory price control orders. State Government by itself cannot take any effective action.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—Is it the view of the Government that prices are not likely to rise and that there has been no price rise during the last several months ?

†Sri K. F. PATIL.—It has been stated that there has been rise, but it has not been a steep rise.

Sri C. K. RAJIAH SETTY.—At what level does the Government consider that it is a steep rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—Abnormal rise beyond the reach of every man.

Sri C. K. RAJIAH SETTY.—According to cost of living index, at what price do you consider it steep ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—It is a vague question and a vague reply.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to build up stocks of essential foodgrains in order to see that the prices do not rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—The centre is taking action to build up rice stocks.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—May I know whether you have made any representation as to what quantity of rice is required so far as this State is concerned ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—I do not follow the question.

Sri M. RAMAPPA.—What is the reason for the rise ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—The prices of commodities are rising and the purchasing capacity of the people is also rising.

Sri G. VENKATAI GOWDA.—Have you made any representation to the Government of India in the matter of holding stock of rice here as to the quantity that is required by the Government of Mysore ?

Sri K. F. PATIL.—A number of times, we have made it known to the Central Government regarding the deficit of this State.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Question time is over.

QUESTION FOR ANSWER ON THE DAY

(but not taken up)

Grant of Land to Harijans for Cultivation of Commercial Crops.

**Q.*—243. Sri H. K. SIDDIAH (Belur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of darkhast applications received from the Harijans requesting for grant of lands to grow coffee and cardamom in Coorg, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Shimoga and Mangalore districts and other coffee growing areas ;